IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 12, and 19 as follows:

1. (Amended Once) A method of setting Quality of Service (QoS) bits of packets sent by a user of a data communications network, comprising:

obtaining a user service profile configured with a QoS level for the user in response to a user log-in attempt to a service selection gateway (SSG);

routing all packets originated by the user through the SSG during a session;

setting, in the SSG, the QoS bits of packets originated by the user in accordance with the QoS level for the user; and

passing, after said QoS bits have been set, said packets on to the data communications network.

3. (Amended Once) A method of setting Quality of Service (QoS) bits of packets sent by a user of a data communications network, comprising:

initiating a request to an authentication, authorization and accounting (AAA) server in response to the user's attempt to log-in;

receiving, in response to said request, a user service profile corresponding to the user, said user service profile including a Quality of Service field; and

using said Quality of Service field to set the QoS bits within said packets transmitted by the user.

5. (Amended Once) A method of setting Quality of Service (QoS) bits of packets sent by a user of a data communications network, comprising:

at a service selection gateway to which the user is in communication, a request from the user to assign a particular Quality of Service level to at least one packet flow transmitted by the user;

assigning, in response to said request, a Quality of Service level to said at least one packet flow;

setting said QoS bits within said packets belonging to said at least one packet flow received at the service selection gateway in accordance with said Quality of Service level; and

transmitting said packets belonging to said at least one packet flow to the data communications network.

6. (Amended Once) A method in accordance with claim 5 wherein all of said packets of said at least one packet flow are IP packets.

12. (Amended Once) An apparatus for setting Quality of Service (QoS) bits of packets sent by a user of a data communications system, said apparatus comprising:

a service selection gateway (SSG) in communication with the user, said SSG also in communication with an authentication, authorization and accounting (AAA) server, said SSG receiving a user service profile including a QoS level from the AAA server in response to an attempt to log-in by the user; and

a packet modifier associated with said SSG, said packet modifier modifying the QoS bits of packets sent by the user to reflect the QoS level received for the user from the AAA server.

19. (Amended Once) An apparatus for setting Quality of Service (QoS) indicator bits of packets sent by a user of a data communications system, said apparatus comprising:

a service selection gateway (SSG) in communication with the user and the data

communications network;

a packet modifier associated with said SSG, responsive to a QoS request by the user,

setting a QoS bit field of packets sent by the user to the data communications network via the

SSG.